



THE GAMBIA



INTRODUCTION

The Gambia gained its independence from the UK in 1965. Joining Senegal, it formed a short-lived Confederation of Senegambia between 1982 and 1989. A new constitution and presidential election in 1996, followed by parliamentary balloting in 1997, completed a nominal return to civilian rule.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Adama BARROW

Head of Government

President Adama BARROW

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Banjul

Legislature

unicameral National Assembly (58 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 11,300 sq km

Land: 10,120 sq km

Water: 1,180 sq km

Climate

tropical; hot rainy season (June to November); cooler, dry season (November to May)

Natural Resources

fish, clay, silica sand, titanium (rutile and ilmenite), tin, zircon

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

small West African economy; COVID-19 reversed robust growth trends; good fiscal management; substantial foreign direct investment and remittances; G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative participant; widespread poverty; increasing Chinese relations

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$5.22 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$2,200 (2020 est.)

Industries - peanuts, fish, hides, tourism, beverages, agricultural machinery assembly, woodworking, metalworking, clothing

Agricultural products - groundnuts, milk, oil palm fruit, millet, sorghum, rice, maize, vegetables, cassava, fruit

Exports \$643 million (2019 est.)

lumber, cashews, refined petroleum, fish oil, ground nut oil (2019)

partners: China 38%, India 22%, Mali 7%, Chile 5% (2019)

Imports \$1.246 billion (2019 est.)

clothing, apparel, refined petroleum, rice, raw sugar, palm oil (2019)

partners: China 33%, India 10%, Senegal 5%, Brazil 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

2.2 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

1.82% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Mandinka/Jahanka 34%, Fulani/Tukulur/Lorobo 22.4%, Wolof 12.6%, Jola/Karoninka 10.7%, Serahuleh 6.6%, Serer 3.2%, other 9.9%, no answer 0.6% (2013 est.)

Language

English (official), Mandinka, Wolof, Fula, other indigenous vernaculars

Religion

Muslim 95.7%, Christian 4.2%, none 0.1%, no response 0.1% (2013 est.)

Urbanization

urban population: 63.2% of total population (2021)

rate of urbanization: 3.75% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

